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Algonquin Highlands proposes a 4.38% tax levy

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After crunching this year's budget numbers, Algonquin Highlands' treasurer believes the township is on good footing.

Treasurer Jean Hughes delivered the second draft of the town's budget during a special council meeting March 2. The budget won't be formally adopted until council's next meeting March 16.

The budget's first draft was brought to council on Feb. 15. It had a levy increase of 3.48 per cent or about \$208,885. But council wanted a few line items added to the spending plan that brought the municipal tax levy to 4.38 per cent for 2023, which is less than a percent higher than originally presented.

"So it's good," she said. "We didn't go up two and three and four per cent during our discussions."

"Council had a very good discussion with department heads and I think we landed in a

see AH page 2



A cure for the winter blues

Dave Bathe from the band Not Responsible played in front of a full house on March 4 at the Minden Legion. For more photos, see page 5. /ADAM FRISK special to the Times

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AH council considers new property standards bylaw

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Property owners in Algonquin Highlands may soon have a clearer idea of how they're expected to maintain their properties.

Town council considered the proposed Clean and Clear Bylaw during its regular public meeting March 2. The suggested legislation covers more ground from an enforcement standpoint than the current bylaw.

Bylaw enforcement staff will return at a later date with a revised proposed Clean and Clear Bylaw.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said council originally thought a property standards bylaw was in order.

"It was just beyond what we were really looking for, for a small municipality in a rural area," said Danielsen.

Kristen Glass, a bylaw enforcement officer, said a property standards bylaw would limit officers to addressing concern only with the land. It wouldn't apply to any structures on that property, she said.

The township's current bylaw was enacted in 2001 and directed that land be kept clean and clear. The new bylaw encompasses more.

Glass said the proposed bylaw defines domestic and industrial waste in a way that she can't enforce the rules if she were to find something classified as industrial refuse on a residential property.

"There is some disconnect on what I could enforce and what I could not enforce," she said.

The Clean and Clear Bylaw will carry set fines for non-compliance that can be issued should an officer find that the property remains in violation.

And, as part of enforcement, an officer can hire somebody to carry out an order should the property owner be non-compliant. The costs of that work and administration fees will be added to the property owner's tax bill.

This is to ensure that the township and its taxpayers are not affected with the enforcement of the bylaw.

Danielsen said some of the terminology in the proposed bylaw is subjective.

"In keeping with the rural environment'. What does that mean?" Danielsen said. "Because that could mean a lot of different things to different people."

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux said there's a subsection that stipulates that owners shall ensure vacant lands are maintained to standards described in Part 4 of the bylaw. Part 4 deals with mowing grass or trimming back grass.

"That also feels like that's more of a suburban or and urban phenomenon," Dailloux said. "Vacant land in a rural area is typically left to do what it wants."

She said some people store well-maintained out of season recreational vehicles on vacant land.

"I don't think that's what you're going after here at all," she said.

Danielsen said staff needs to do some wordsmithing in the interest of clarity.

"I think we're all in agreement that we want some changes made to that to make sure that it's absolutely clear what we're looking for," the mayor said.

Glass suggested changes be made to stipulate a vacant parcel of land that's growing wild, undisturbed, be allowed to remain natural.

"I feel like that would help to garner where we're trying to go with this and still allow bylaw (officers) the tools that they need," she said.

Glass said she's dealt with property owners who had front yards littered with rotting deer carcasses. Collections of bicycles cast aside and left to rust is a common sight.

Danielsen said there's a large artist community in Algonquin Highlands. Some of those artists might create welded sculptures with such bicycles.

"I just wonder how you might deal with that," Danielsen said. "If somebody had a stash of a certain kind of material that might under normal circumstances be considered to be waste or refuse or debris."

Glass said the proposed bylaw has a section that deals with the outside storage of such materials.

"So long as they're neat and orderly and perhaps screened from view, that would be acceptable," she said.

Minden Hills fire hydrant work among capital projects

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Minden Hills will replace Highway 35 fire hydrants as part of 2023 capital projects.

The work was discussed when council met March 2 during a special meeting, the second round of the municipal budget process.

The latest draft has a two per cent water rate increase and a four per cent wastewater rate increase.

The Minden water system could see a proposed seven cent increase for \$3.41 per cubic metre. Its wastewater rate will cost an extra 19 cents for a new price of \$4.12 per cubic metre this year.

The proposed rate increases will adjust the minimum billings per quarter to \$139.68 for water, \$193.56 for wastewater, and \$312.24 for the Lutterworth Pines system.

Included in the water capital budget is the replacement of 20 fire hydrants with isolation valves along Highway 35. The township received an Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program grant of \$252,071.

The hydrant project has to be completed by Oct. 31. And that

grant stipulation is worrisome for Councillor Pam Sayne.

"That's pretty tight," she said. "I want to make sure we don't lose the grant. I love having that federal and provincial money. Are we ready to go on this project and can we meet the timeline?"

Mike Timmins, the township's public works director, said he's been in touch with Infrastructure Canada representatives. Some of the program parameters won't be applied to Minden Hills, he said.

"For the most part, we are pretty well positioned," Timmins said.

Capital projects that were approved last year and are either in progress or have not started have been consolidated into this year's proposed capital budget.

The capital budget to be funded through taxation has increased by \$25,000 to \$623,172, to address the funding concerns. That's rolled into the tax-supported operating budget to determine to overall township levy and tax increase.

AH budget in fine form

from page 1

very good spot."

At the time the second draft was inked, there was no word on Haliburton County's budget. The upper tier council has since then raised the tax levy 2.79 per cent over last year.

"I was able to, in the budget impact sheets, include the 2023 rates for county, education, and municipal (contribution)," Hughes said. "We're under three per cent in the overall tax rate."

Hughes figured a 2.62 per cent overall rate for Algonquin Highlands ratepayers.

"That's a really good spot to be in," she said. "With inflation at 6.9 (per cent) or higher, we're well under inflation overall in our tax rate."

The second draft includes \$1,500 for a volunteer appreciation event and \$4,000 related to a team-building exercise for new councillors and Department heads.

The township will spend \$1,500 for plants at Dorset Village.

Council will put \$50,000 toward recruiting municipal by-law enforcement staff for the summer.

And as much as \$3,000 was taken from the kitty that had been for Thanksgiving weekend traffic control. The town also proposed to reallocate the money from airport contributions that would toward reserves. Council proposed use it to create a new parking reserve.

"One of the things that was noted and brought up was the \$10,000 for the Dorset health hub," said Hughes. "That transfer has been completed and is in there from last year because the money was unused."

So that's last year's money put into reserves alongside an additional \$10,000 for this year.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said she was pleased with the work done to set the township's purse for the year.



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New initiative aims to cut down food waste across the county

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

The County of Haliburton is running a pilot FoodCycler program in an attempt to mitigate household waste across the municipalities.

In recent history, Minden Hills, Dysart, and Algonquin Highlands each participated in individual FoodCycler programs, and the results were favourable. “We believe offering it at a county level will entice more people to participate,” said Korey McKay, the climate change coordinator for the county.

FoodCyclers are about the size of a bread maker, and can fit on the average kitchen countertop. The county is offering two slightly different sizes; one for a family of one to two, and another that would be used more effectively as a family of three or more. The processor is able to break down the majority of food scraps, resulting in a volume reduction of over 90 per cent.

The previously wet and smelly food is transformed into dry, sterile, and odorless fertilizer that can be saved and used in gardens and plants.

“We are trying to extend the lives of our landfills, reduce greenhouse gases, and offer an alternative to traditional composting,” said McKay. She noted that while she hopes county residents continue traditional composting as well, the FoodCycler would offer some different options for what that looks like, as there are very few foods that the FoodCycler can not break down.

The units typically market at \$500 for the smaller size, and \$800 for the larger one, yet



Haliburton County's FoodCycler pilot program has offered 500 FoodCycler units to residents in Haliburton County to compost food waste.
/Submitted

McKay shared that the county will be subsidizing a chunk of the cost. They have also partnered with Food Cycle Canada to offset the price point further based on grants the organization has received. The bottom line for the units will be \$100 for the small size and \$200 for the larger one. Once the trial period is done, participants in the study can keep the units for future usage.

“All we ask from participants is that they keep track of how often they use them over a 12 week period,” said McKay. “We will also

be sharing a quick survey to participants so we can understand how much food waste a household is making.”

McKay noted that the Dysart municipality spoke about their pilot FoodCycler program at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association at the end of January, and she believed the initiative put the region on the map as an innovative environmental space.

Potential participants can learn more about the FoodCycler program, as well as apply to receive a unit during the trial period by vis-

iting www.haliburtoncounty.ca and heading to the climate change section of the website. County residents are welcome to apply any time before March 17, at which point county staff will confirm the number of units available, and whether participants are successful in their application. If you have any questions, you can contact McKay at 705-286-1333 ext. 242 or foodcycler@haliburton-county.ca.

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SPRING INTO BATTERY RECYCLING

As you spring your clocks forward this weekend, don't forget to check all your smoke detectors to make sure they're operating properly. Expired batteries should be changed out and can be recycled at the Scotch Line landfill site

NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING DRAFT 2023 WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES BUDGET

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding the Draft 2023 Water and Wastewater Rates Budget. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

Greg Bedard, Director of Finance/Treasurer • 705-286-1260 ext. 504 • gbedard@mindenhills.ca

PARKS AND RECREATION MARCH BREAK PROGRAMMING

Lots of ice programs going on at S.G. Nesbitt Arena between March 13-17.
March 13-17 (everyday): Ticket ice at 8-8:50 am, parent/tot and 6 & under stick n' puck at 9-9:50 am, 7-10 years shinny at 1-1:50 pm, public skating at 2-3:50 pm.
March 13 & 15: 7-12-years stick n' puck at 10-10:50 am
March 14 & 16: Adult skate at 10-10:50 am
March 14, 15, & 16: 11-14 years shinny at 11-11:50 am
Please call 705-286-1936 for more information.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/be-prepared-emergency> For more info.

NOTICE: ADOPTION OF 2023 WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE BUDGET AND BY-LAWS

Please take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will consider adopting Water and Wastewater Rate By-laws related to the 2023 Municipal Budget.

The 2023 Water and Wastewater Operating and Capital Budget and By-laws will be reviewed on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 9:00 AM during its Regular Meeting of Council, held virtually, via web conference, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

The proposed By-laws to be considered are as follows:
By-law 23-28 Wastewater Rates - Minden
By-law 23-29 Water Rates - Lutterworth
By-law 23-30 Water Rates - Minden

Dated this 27th day of February 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact: Greg Bedard, Director of Finance/Treasurer 705-286-1260 ext. 504 gbedard@mindenhills.ca

CULTURAL CENTRE MARCH BREAK PROGRAMMING

March Break Drop-In Program at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre! Visit us in Nature's Place during March Break any time from 10 am – 12 pm for a fun nature based hands-on activity geared to children ages 4-10 years old. All children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Admission is by donation. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 x 542 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca.

TIME TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS AND THE BATTERIES IN ALL SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Clocks will spring forward one hour at 2am on Sunday, March 12th and the Minden Hills Fire Department is recommending residents install new batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms when they change their clocks. Don't forget to check the date on your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms they need to be replaced every 10 years.



(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

March 9 – Special Council Meeting – 2023 Budget Deliberations
March 30 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

The beautiful life of Lisa Kerr

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

When someone passes away, it's often asked what they did in their lives. All those little things that add up over a lifetime.

For Lisa Kerr, perhaps a more apt question would be "what didn't she do?"

A musician, a volunteer, a philanthropist, a homeschool teacher, a daughter, a wife, a mother.

There is no singular word that captures Lisa Kerr, who passed away at the age of 59 on February 15 from a brain tumour.

"The best way I can describe her is just that she had a full zest for life," shared her daughter, Loretta Kerr D'Ambrosio, "she was so optimistic, excitable, and lived for the little things in life."

Loretta sat curled up in an armchair, with her fingers laced around a warm mug of tea while she shared the many stories of the life and times of her mother.

Loretta and her three brothers; Steve, Ryan, and JJ, moved to the Minden region in 1998 when their parents, Bill and Lisa Kerr bought a cottage that they transformed into a warm and loving family home.

Bill and Lisa met when they attended the University of Toronto, and Loretta shared that Bill always told them that he knew Lisa was "the one" at first sight. The two started dating, and eventually went to Western University; Bill to study dental and Lisa to focus on law. Within no time, the two were married, and started a family; having four kids over five and a half years.

While Bill balanced being a young dad and a full time dentist, Lisa dove into the role of motherhood. "We all took turns being homeschooled," said Loretta, "we were a lot

younger, and that was just added time we got to spend with her. We had a great time."

On top of being a mother to four growing children, Lisa also became steadily involved with the community as a whole. She was an active member of the hospital board, 100 Women Who Care, Those Other Movies, the Highlands Summer Festival, and the Heritage Ballet *Nutcracker* performances every year, to name a few.

When asked what Lisa would be most proud of, Loretta didn't hesitate to share her pride in the volunteer dental outreach clinic in Haliburton, which offers support to county residents who may struggle financially with the cost of dental work. "She always worked hard to solve any problem that may come up," Loretta smiled, "if someone would call and say they couldn't make it to the clinic because they didn't have a ride, she would say 'okay, I'll come pick you up.' She did all the behind-the-scenes things."

Lisa was diagnosed with cancer in June of 2022. What started as a presumed concussion from a minor vehicular accident escalated quickly as doctors completed MRI's, and noted two tumours on her brain. One was removed for the biopsy, while the other was identified as malignant, stage four cancer. Lisa completed six weeks of chemotherapy and radiation in an attempt to lessen the impacts of the tumour, but the family was aware of what the future would hold. "We knew what was coming," said Loretta, "but we didn't really let that slow us down. We were just trying to make every day the best it could be."

Loretta shared that she knew her mom wouldn't have wanted any of them to feel stagnantly sad with the prognosis, so they carried on with the zest for life that they had all inherited from Lisa. This included going to



Loretta Kerr D'Ambrosio shared her favourite photo of her and her mother, Lisa Kerr, celebrating Loretta's wedding day with her in 2019. Lisa passed away on Feb. 15. /photo submitted

plays in Toronto, attending an Elton John concert, and traveling to Turks and Caicos as a family in November of 2022.

"My parents went to Turks and Caicos before mom's diagnosis," Loretta said, "and when they came back, they went on about how we should all do it together, and of course, we all kind of rolled our eyes at the chances that we could all take time off work at the same time, but as soon as we found out about her diagnosis, we all said, 'okay, let's go.'"

After getting back from their family holiday, Lisa looked eagerly towards Christmas, wanting to make it a special memory for everyone. The family had a happy Christmas morning, filled with laughter and warmth, before Lisa's health began to decline in early January. At that point, she was admitted to palliative care, but returned to their family home shortly after to live out her days. "We all sensed what was happening, but it was never explicitly stated," said Loretta, "everybody pulled together, and we focused on making those days the best they could be."

Lisa died in her sleep during the early morning hours of Feb. 15. On Valentine's Day, her and Bill had fallen asleep together, holding hands in front of the crackling fire in their family home.

"Given the hand we were dealt, I don't regret anything," shared Loretta. "We said everything we wanted to say, she heard everything we were saying, and we wouldn't have done anything differently."

The family hosted a celebration of life at the Pinestone Resort on Feb. 18. Hundreds attended, either in-person or virtually, to laugh, share, and celebrate the memories of Lisa. "After the celebration of life, we all had a feeling of euphoria," said Loretta, "we gave her the celebration she deserved."

As her tea began to cool, Loretta reflected on the little things her mom did that really made the world sparkle. Buying matching pajamas for the kids every Christmas, getting the whole family "Camp Kerr" sweaters to make them feel welcome, custom party gifts and little gestures that would make everyone feel seen, heard, and loved. "She always had little cute ideas to just take things, and make them feel that much more special," smiled Loretta.

She noted that the community has been overwhelmingly supportive during this trying time, with locals reaching out to her and sharing memories they had of Lisa, and offering stories of grief that make Loretta feel not so alone. "I feel like I understand grief so much more now," she said, "when people tell me their own stories and experiences, it means so much to me." Loretta hopes to utilize her own personal experiences to connect with others about grief, and offer support to those who may be navigating similar challenges.

As Loretta placed her now-empty tea mug on the side-table, she reached and grabbed her phone. In the photos file, she typed in one word: "mom". The screen flooded with images of Lisa. Lisa laughing. Lisa sitting on the dock in the sunshine. Lisa wearing matching sweaters with the family. Lisa with a tiny puppy. Lisa going in for an operation. Lisa with her arms around her kids. Lisa smiling through chemo. Lisa getting a kiss from Bill on the cheek. Lisa looking happy, her eyes filled to the brim with joy.

The little things add up over a lifetime, even if that lifetime was unfairly cut short. The gifts, the energy, the enthusiasm for the community, the support for her family, the little details that become big memories, the zest for life, the love, through and through. All those little things added up to Lisa Kerr, and a life that was beautifully lived.



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Rock and roll at the Legion

Not Responsible's band member Andy Salvatori played in front of an engaged crowd on March 4 at the Minden Legion.



Not Responsible's frontman George Porter belts out a tune at the Minden Legion. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Times*

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An uphill battle

MARCH 8 IS International Women's Day. A day to celebrate everything it means to be a woman; the strength, the resilience, the power, the magic.

It's also a time to acknowledge the shortcomings; the gender pay gap, the imbalance of power, the disparity in equality that runs rampant around the world, some places worse than others.

When I thought about writing this editorial, I thought it would be a walk in the park. After all, I do identify as a woman, I was raised by strong women, and I am doing everything in my power to raise the next generation of glass-ceiling-breakers.

But, for the first time in a long time, I hit a wall.

Where do you start with "women"? What is there to say when you have too much to say.

I thought about the phrase "walk in the park" - an idiom that's generally used to present a sense of ease.

I thought about how every time I have ever walked through a park in a city, I hold keys between my fingers in my jacket-pocket, in case someone sneaks up behind me. I have faked phone calls when I felt fear in public places. I, like nearly every other woman, have a "me too" story to contribute. The worst part of it all? I have normalized these responses and reactions. They're part of the package.

Half the population is just another statistic for imbalance, assault, and mistreatment.

The scales really begin to tip with Indigenous women, who make up only four per cent of the Canadian population, but over 16 per cent of the women murdered in our home on Native land.

So here we are, on Women's Day, and it's easy to be dragged down

by the facts. There's still so far to go. Why is it like this. Why are we spinning in circles. Still.

It's not just up to those who identify as women; it's a responsibility that falls on the shoulders of anyone with a beating heart. We must educate, must advocate, must listen, must learn. We can work with the young people to alter engrained generational practices, but we must always be open to change, at any age. We don't need to spin in circles.

This day is also an opportunity to celebrate the stories of our towns; the women who are starting businesses, who are sharing their zest for life, who pave the way for others to

follow, who think outside the box, and dare to dream of a world that's different. I have the privilege, every week, to sit down with the movers and shakers of our towns, and feel inspired.

There's so much to say, and never enough time, space, or energy to say it. Being a woman is exhausting.

It doesn't matter who you are or what you do, if you identify as a woman, I guarantee you've felt tired. And not the kind of tired a good night's sleep will fix. The kind of exhaustion that you feel when you are constantly climbing uphill - fighting for basic rights, carrying the mental load, and being pushed backwards, backwards, backwards.

My hope for you is that you have a foundation. A group of other women who can catch you if you fall, listen to you when you are silenced, carry you forward when you are pushed back.

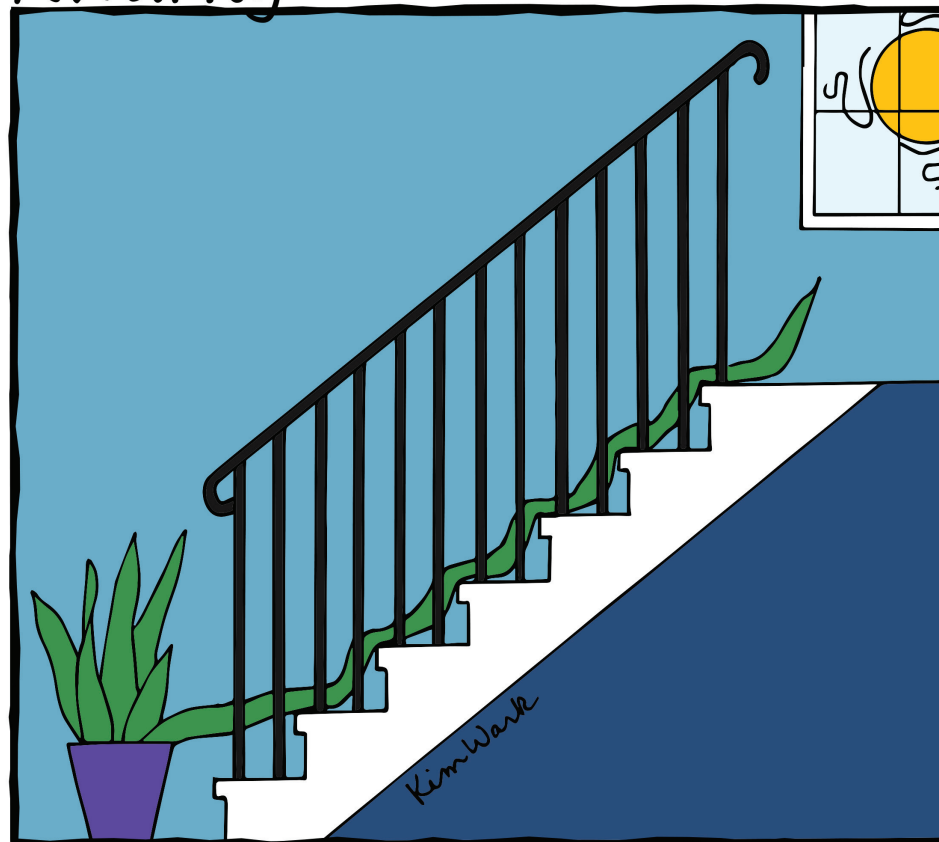
So, on International Women's Day, let's celebrate the successes; the strength, the resilience, the power, the overall magic of being a woman, and let's keep marching ahead.

Because being a woman may not be a walk in the park, but it shouldn't be an uphill battle.



EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Kwarky



Sun Seeker

De-bunking the myth

A LOT HAS BEEN written about life in a hunting or fishing camp, but the one thing everyone avoids mentioning is the sleeping arrangements. I'm not talking about who sleeps with who either. It's a hunting and fishing camp - most of us go there to sleep alone.

No, what I am talking about is whether it is better to claim the top or bottom bunk.

This is one of those questions most people believe was answered long ago. The conventional wisdom

was that you should always claim the top bunk as soon as you walk in the door. The old school of thought suggests that the person on the bottom is susceptible to blunt force trauma should the bunk bed collapse due to a combination of shoddy workmanship and the weight of the occupant above.

Even worse, there was also the concern that things could get very uncomfortable quickly should the occupant above you turn out to be a bed wetter.

In reality, neither of those things are a concern these days. First off, any bunk bed that exists in a hunting or fishing camp these days is overbuilt to prevent collapse, possibly because they remember that fateful day in 1968 when Big Louie took the top bunk. (Shout out to Flat Jeffrey.)

As for the bed wetting, that is a throwback to childhood, when it was a phase some kids (the ones that always took the top bunk) went through. It is exceedingly rare for an adult in the top bunk to wet the bed. Coincidentally, it is also

exceedingly rare for a bear to break into the cabin in the middle of the night.

On the other hand, there are real disadvantages to being in the top bunk. For instance, gravity likes nothing better than a restless sleeper on a fenceless plateau five feet above the ground. Also, the guy or gal on the top bunk is always the first person to find out about the leaky roof or the bat infestation. That person is also the one who discovers how solid the rafters are, usually with their forehead after abruptly sitting up as soon as the morning alarm sounds off.

Let's also not forget that hot air rises. This is something you will never forget after chilli night.

The point is that the top bunk is not all it is cracked up to be.

The bottom bunk is actually preferred by those of us who know better. There are many reasons for this. First, if you roll out of the bottom

bunk you won't bounce or crack floorboards. Also, you are the last one to complain about a leaky roof.

It's also worth noting that you can create a tent around your bottom bunk by hanging sheets or towels from the frame above you. This is a not so much for privacy as for personal protection. You don't want to be the one who discovers, as he hang drops down, that the new guy in the top bunk sleeps in his birthday suit. Or has what appears to be leprosy on his feet as he sits on the top bunk and swings them.

All this is to say, you should not believe are myths about sleeping in hunt camps that have been around forever. Most of them are a load of bunk.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Of elves and trolls

THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS are becoming so complex that it appears politicians are turning to elves for help.

It's happening in Mexico. Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrador recently posted on Twitter a photo of what he said was an alux, an elf-like creature that lives in the woods.

Some Maya peoples believe these are knee-high sprites, usually invisible but who sometimes assume a physical form to communicate with humans.

Obrador posted the photo of a little figure with glowing eyes crouched in a tree at night.

"Everything is mystical," he wrote.

He made the Twitter post the same weekend as tens of thousands of Mexicans

protested his electoral law changes they say threaten the country's democracy. Some saw the alux post as a way of diverting attention from the electoral reform protests.

Lopez Obrador is not the first politician to have a relationship with elves.

Some years back Arni Johnsen, a member of the Icelandic parliament, said he was saved by a family of "hidden people" when his car left the road, flipped and rolled down a cliff. A family of elves, who lived inside a large boulder near the crash site, saved his life, Johnsen said.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

An expert on elves told Johnsen he could thank the family by moving their home to a better location. So Johnsen had their 30-ton boulder home moved to his property where it was placed on a spot with a fine ocean view, and plenty of grass on which they could raise their invisible sheep.

Elves are very popular in Iceland. Road construction projects there have been delayed to allow elves living in the area to find other homes.

Meanwhile, elves have become active in combatting Russian disinformation campaigns against Ukraine and western democracies.

These "elves" are real people - anonymous volunteers who are part of a growing movement fighting Russian lies through cyber activism. They call themselves "The Elves" because, like elves, they want their identities to be invisible.

Cyber activism, also called digital activism, uses the Internet and digital media as platforms for mass mobilization and political action.

This elf movement began in 2014 when Russia invaded Ukraine to annex the Crimea peninsula. Some volunteers in the former Soviet state of Lithuania decided to counteract Moscow's disinformation machine and formed "The Elves", named for the little people who work unseen and anonymously behind the scenes.

The movement has expanded to an estimated 4,000 volunteers in 13 European countries. They have a co-operation agreement, which includes an annual Elves Academy at which 100 volunteers learn from leading elves new skills to help make them more effective at their work.

A main target of "The Elves" are Russian efforts to manipulate public opinion and build support for the invasion of Ukraine. Troll farms, sponsored by the Russian government, regularly fill social media with disinformation about the war in Ukraine.

For instance, the trolls have spread Russian defense ministry claims that bodies of civilians lying dead in Ukraine streets are fake. Eyewitness accounts, satellite images and other photos all support Ukrainian claims that Russian soldiers brutally murder civilians in the streets and commit rape and other atrocities.

Mass graves of civilians, plus torture chambers, have been uncovered in Russian invaded areas since liberated by Ukrainian fighters. Also, television networks every day show video clips of civilian apartment buildings blown apart by Russian missiles.

When "The Elves" see Russian disinformation on a social media site they report it en masse, generating hundreds, even thousands, of complaints and requests to have it removed. In addition to getting fake accounts shut down and fake news blocked, "The Elves" try to counter disinformation by publishing facts.

"The Elves" have been considering expanding their work to include countering disinformation from China. They are working with people in Taiwan to establish the first Asian chapter of "The Elves".

So maybe critics shouldn't be so quick to call President Obrador a nutbar for seeing an alux and considering it mystical.

If not mystical, the work of "The Elves" in Europe certainly is worthwhile and appreciated.

Disinformation is becoming a global pandemic, and the more elves fighting it the better.

letters to the editor

Bid on a Bunkie and support SIRCH Community Services

Just in time for spring, SIRCH Community Services is launching an auction where one lucky recipient will win a handcrafted Bunkie.

Built by participants of the Basics of Carpentry employment training program, this one-of-a-kind Bunkie will be open for bids on the Nonprofit Bidding online auction platform from March 9 to the 24th and is open for preview now!

Proceeds from the auction will go back into supporting SIRCH programs, making the auction a win-win!

The Bunkie measures 104 square feet and is 8 feet by 13 feet with 7-foot-high ceilings inside. It features a large steel entry door and two high quality Jeld Wen windows. Clad in painted board and batten style with a shingled roof, the structure is unfinished inside but is fully enclosed, with a floor that is insulated and sealed.

The estimated value of the bunkie is \$8,000 and bidding starts at \$2500.

Basics of Carpentry is an employment training program offered by SIRCH Community Services that gives trainees the carpentry skills they need to gain employment in the construction industry.

NonprofitBidding.org is an easy-to-use, secure online auction platform created to support the fundraising efforts of non-profit organizations and charities. To bid, simply create an account, register your credit card, and join the fun. Credit card details are never stored on Nonprofit Bidding's servers but



Participants of the Basics of Carpentry employment training program have built a bunkie to fundraise for SIRCH programming. /Submitted

are securely transmitted to and stored in an encrypted format with Stripe.

For more information about the auction or to place a bid, go to <https://nonprofitbidding.org>.

SIRCH Community Services is a not-for-profit organization that addresses gaps and needs in the community by creating programs that aim to create resilience, reduce poverty and encourage connection. It has been serving Haliburton County and beyond for more than 30 years. For more information, go to <https://www.sirch.on.ca/>.

March Break Drop-in programs offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Join us for our March Break Drop-In Program at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre! Visit us in Nature's Place during March Break any time from 10 AM to 12 PM for a fun nature based hands-on activity geared to children ages 4-10 years old. All children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Admission is by donation.

For more information or questions regarding this program, please call the Community Services Department at 705-286-1260 x 542

or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca.

For more information, visit the Township of Minden Hills website at <https://www.mindenhills.ca>

Contact Information:
Shannon Kelly, Manager of Cultural Services

Township of Minden Hills
PO Box 359, 7 Milne Street
Minden, ON K0M 2K0
skelly@mindenhills.ca

HCPL's Book of the Week



A delicate and thoughtful YA story about grief, depression, and belonging, *The Astonishing Color of After* is the story of Leigh, who is convinced her mother transformed into a red bird after she died by suicide. Following this bird's magical trail, Leigh travels to Taiwan where she connects with her estranged grandparents and unravels threads of ghosts, mysteries, and family secrets. As she reckons with her grief, Leigh also navigates her relationship with Axel, her best friend with whom she shared her first kiss the same day her mother was taking her own life. Complicated, heartbreaking, and ultimately uplifting, *The Astonishing Color of After* is a sensitive portrayal of depression and identity.

The *Astonishing Color of After* by Emily X.R. Pan is available to borrow as an e-book from the Haliburton County Public Library.

The Connector

Like the roots of a tree, I emerge from the lower back, appearing between the joints of the spine at various levels. The spinal cord is my anchor, my information source, my boss. I weave and wind my way through the anatomical hills and valleys of your glutes, until I form a great trunk. I extend down to your knees, where I divide again and form branches, some of which extend to the tips of the toes. I allow you to move your muscles, and to feel the ground you're walking



KASSIE BRADLEY
Wellness Corner with Kassie

on. I am the Giant Sequoia of the human body, the great connector. I am the Sciatic nerve. "Sciatica" is a term that is used to describe pain anywhere along this nerve. The most common occurrence is pain that originates in the lower back and spreads down the leg. The pain can be described as a lightning bolt down the leg, burning, pins and needles, numbness, and/or muscle weakness. It typically only affects one leg at a time and can come and go, varying in intensity. People can often get the pain to go away in certain positions, and find it commonly aggravated with prolonged sitting, bending and lifting.

Sciatica is a symptom, not a diagnosis. It is a flag that is telling you that something is wrong. That something, somewhere in your lower back, is being irritated. This is called "referred pain," meaning that the pain is perceived at a location other than the actual site of the issue. Think of the symptoms of

a heart attack, where the pain is sometimes felt in the left shoulder or back, rather than the actual chest itself.

Most commonly in my practice I see sciatica as a symptom of a lower back issue. Specifically, the nerve is being compressed or irritated where it exits the spine. The most common cause of sciatica is an issue with the intervertebral disc, which lays between the vertebra (bones) of the spine. The discs themselves can sustain various injuries, such as compression, degeneration, bulging, tearing, or thinning to name a few. The above can all cause irritation to the local nerve root which many manifest as sciatica further down the leg.

The more irritated the nerve, the further down the leg the symptoms extend. Other causes can include/not limited to spinal stenosis, osteoarthritis or bone spurs, trauma, and Piriformis syndrome. These are topics I will write about in more detail in the upcoming weeks.

So what do we do for this? First and foremost obtain an accurate diagnosis, which may include your Medical Doctor, Physiotherapist or Chiropractor. And second, start to identify some modifications you can make to your lifestyle such as workplace ergonomics, flexibility, lifting mechanics, and strength and conditioning of the body. Hands on treatment can help reduce the pain, muscle spasm, and get you up and moving sooner. The exercises listed below are not a replacement for an assessment from a qualified health professional, however, over the years they have provided good results to my patients.

To be safe I recommend consulting with your physician before starting any exercise routine.

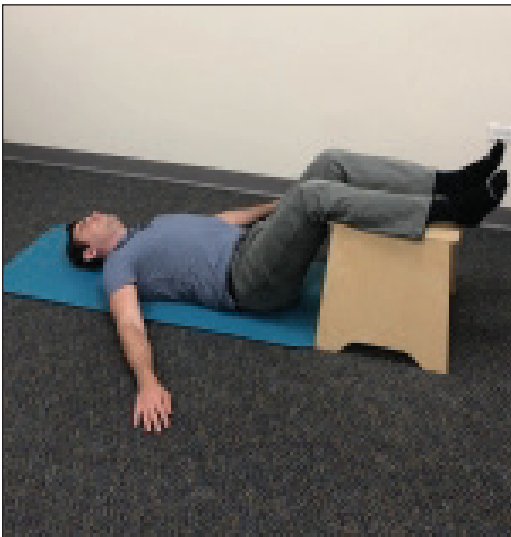
Z Lying position

- Lay on your back, with your legs lifted to 90 degrees, resting on a chair or stool. Relax your arms out to your side. Rest in this position for 15-20 minutes.

Hamstring Stretch with Towel

- While lying down on your back, hook a towel or strap under your foot and draw up your leg until a gentle stretch is felt along the backside of your leg. Please note that more is not better. This stretch should be comfortable and non pain provoking.

- Keep your knee in a straightened position during the stretch.



Z Lying position. Exercise photos complimentary of HEP2GO.com

- Hold for 20-30 seconds.

Piriformis Stretch

- While lying on your back with both knee bent, cross your affected leg on the other knee.
- Next, hold your unaffected thigh and pull it up towards your chest until a stretch is felt in the buttock.

- Hold 20-30 seconds.



Hamstring Stretch with towel



Piriformis Stretch

The Return of the Boomers

by **JACK BREZINA**
Jack's POV

Boomers!

Lock your indicators on left hand turn.

Bring all the coupons you can find to the grocery store at the busiest time of the day.

Slap *Stairway to Heaven* on your console stereo, crank it up to max and open the windows.

The sixties are back, baby ... and the Boomers rule!

That's right, according to a study recently released as part of the Community and Well Being Plan, Haliburton County has the highest percentage of those over 60 in all of Ontario. It currently stands at 32 per cent while the provincial average according to recent Stats Canada numbers is 19 per cent, but a spokesman for the group predicts that by 2046 the number will rise to 40 per cent that should make Millennials and Generations X, Y & Z cower in their panic rooms wondering when, or if, it will ever be safe to come out again.

It comes as no surprise to those of us who flooded the delivery rooms following World War Two. Once we Baby Boomers got our feet under us a decade or more later, we're the ones who pushed Patti Page and her waggy-tailed doggie out of the window and replaced it with hip swivelling Elvis's Hound Dog. We, well, mostly our cohorts south of the border, mobilized to bring an end to the war in Vietnam. And, we like to believe, were the ones who invented "sex, (mostly wistful dreams), drugs (mostly alcohol and a whiff of cannabis), and rock 'n' roll", frightening the wits out our parents and the establishment.

In the sixties, the Baby Boomers were in charge, baby. Our buying power made us the most sought-after generation in, well, since forever. From California to Carnaby Street to Yorkville the generation drove the fashion and music scenes. We even had our own counterculture. The hippies emerged to decry the materialism that was ruining everyone and

everything, all while the record companies, fast food joints and those who co-opted the counterculture were rolling in money. Older folk had trouble distinguishing the genders because ... egad ... the guys' hair was longer than the girls'.

And then, like bears, we retreated to our dens (and rec rooms, macrame classes and garages) for thirty years. Thirty years ... that is how long it takes to shake off the past, raise a family and pay off a mortgage. We mellowed out, lost our zest from righting all the wrongs of the previous generation, listened to oldies radio stations and tired of fighting our way up the corporate ladder.

Swinging past 50, (because we told ourselves that 50 was the new 40), we began counting the days until we retired. An investment firm even promised "Freedom Fifty-five", a message that resonated with many but perhaps arrived too late to be within reach or most. But as the Boomers left the workforce, they once again discovered living large. Every day was like Saturday and while not everyone was rolling in green, the good life was there for the taking. Most onerous bills had been paid, the government started giving back the money it had extracted from our pay cheques during our working years and for some, an additional pension made life pretty easy to take.

So, Haliburton County, the bulge that emerged in the swinging sixties has suddenly reappeared, in more ways than one, in the twenty twenties, and they say it is going to get bigger. And, surprise, the mantra that drove our generation in the sixties is still the coda of the day: sex is still recalled somewhat wistfully; drugs are still consumed in vast quantities thanks to medical professionals and the ubiquitous cannabis stores; and rock and roll, well just watch the boomers as they navigate the grocery store, rocking from side to side as they roll their carts, or on the street with their walkers and aboard scooters ... and someday, and you'll want to keep an eye for this, they will actually make that left turn!

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

Minden Hills Advisory Committees Call for Committee Members

The Township of Minden Hills is looking for volunteers to participate as members on the following Advisory Committees for the 2023-2026 term of Council:

- Community Services Advisory Committee
- Cultural Centre Advisory Committee
- Events Advisory Committee
- Lochlin Community Centre Advisory Committee
- Irondale Community Centre Advisory Committee
- Planning and Development Advisory Committee

If you, or someone you know, are interested in participating in any of the above committees, please submit a completed application form in person, by mail or email to:

Advisory Committee Applications

Clerk's Department,
Township of Minden Hills
7 Milne Street, PO Box 359
Minden, ON
K0M 2K0

sprentice@mindenhills.ca

Application deadline is **Friday, March 17, 2023**, by 12:00 noon.

For an Application Form or for more information, please visit our website www.mindenhills.ca/ Local Government/Committees and Boards, or contact admin@mindenhills.ca or call the Clerk's Department at 705-286-1260 ext. 512

What to do in the Highlands over March Break

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

Boredom won't be in your family's vocabulary this March Break in the Highlands.

There's no shortage of exciting events and fun activities for all ages in the county during Trillium Lakelands District School Board's break from classes from Monday, Mar. 13 to Friday, Mar. 17.

Starting with the Haliburton County Public Library, they'll have both registered and drop-in fun family events throughout the entire week at the Dysart, Wilberforce, Stanhope, Highland Grove, and Minden branches.

From storytimes to origami making, checking out tech toys to making art, and creating electrical circuits to using a green screen to design stop motion films, there's truly something for everyone.

For HCPL's full schedule and event details, visit www.haliburtonlibrary.ca/Programs-Events.

Over in West Guilford, Abbey Gardens is hosting three children's programs catering to different age ranges.

The first is Fresh Air Tykes, a two-day nature-based program for children ages 5 and 6 on the Tuesday and Wednesday of March Break.

The second is their Outdoor Kids program on the Thursday and Friday.

"Our days will be filled with nature-based activities, stories, hikes, outdoor skills, crafts, and a meet and greet with our ponies," said Abbey Gardens education coordinator Irene Heaven.

There third event is for youth ages 10 to 14 to become familiar with the Gardens' resident ponies at an on-the-ground horse camp on Wednesday.

"We will have an indoor base, because you just never know what the March weather will be like, but we will be venturing outside a lot to explore," said Heaven.

To register for Abbey Gardens' March Break programs, visit abbeygardens.ca/programming-2/.

Heading back to Haliburton, families who register for the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust Speaking of Wildlife interactive presentation at the HHOA Fish Hatchery on Saturday, Mar. 18 will have the opportunity to meet Ontario wildlife up close from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca/civicrm/?civiwp=CiviCRM&q=civicrm%2Fevent%2Finfo&reset=1&id=83.

Over at SIRCH Community Services, families can "drop in and hang out" on Tuesday, Mar. 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. for activities like colouring and puzzles. Their kid's experimental music event, Let's Jam!, will be held on Wednesday, Mar. 15 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

The Reform Studio at the Wellness Hub in Haliburton is hosting three Kids Move & Groove drop in sessions on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of the break from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$10 per child at the door.

Yours Outdoors will have two Predator Prowls at Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve. One is on Tuesday, Mar. 14 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and one is on Friday, Mar. 18 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Finishing off a fun-filled week is a Razzamataz performance featuring Nhapi Tapi, a band from Zimbabwe, on Sunday, Mar. 19 at 2 p.m. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts. Visit myhaliburtonhighlands.com for up to date information on March Break programming in the area.

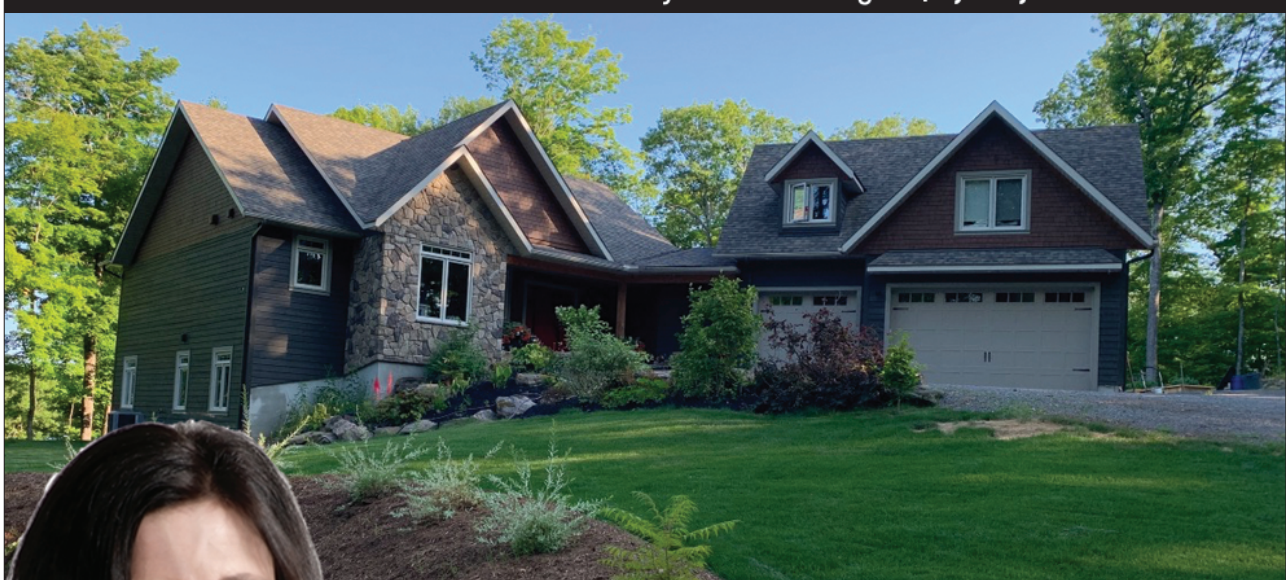


Abbey Gardens is hosting three different offerings for March Break programs that will keep kids happy and entertained for the whole week. /photo submitted



Amy McAlpine of Royal Canadian Falconry is working with Yours Outdoors and Haliburton Forest to offer the Predator Prowl experience over March Break. The informative session is great for the whole family. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

JUST LISTED - Twelve Mile Lake luxury home or cottage - \$2,500,000



This one of a kind property features a **4500 sq ft** custom home, built in 2018, with **103 ft of south-east facing waterfront on 20 acres** of mature hardwood forest. The luxurious, executive lake-front home offers 4 bedrooms & 3 baths, a 32'x 26' garage with self contained suite above featuring kitchenette, living room, bed & full bath. Professionally landscaped property. Granite lakefront patio with built in BBQ and oversized aluminum docking system. Live the dream on Twelve Mile Lake.



Melanie Hevesi
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Huskies bring home a win at final game of regular season

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

The Haliburton County Huskies finished strong in their final game of the regular season before playoffs against the North York Rangers, beating the team 6-3.

The first period of the game started slow with no goals for either team.

Just over three minutes into the second

period, Huskies forward Luca Rea scored a shorthanded goal assisted by Patrick Saini while the Rangers were a minute and a half into a two-minute power play.

Four more goals were scored by the Huskies in the second period by Will Gourgouvelis, Lucas Stevenson, Marco Iozzo, and Alex Cunningham.

With the Huskies in the lead by 5-0, the Rangers scored their first goal of the game

with less than two minutes left in the second period.

The local team were kept on their toes in the third period when North York scored a power play goal 21 seconds in.

Alex Cunningham scored the Huskies only goal of the third period with North York scoring once more before the final buzzer sounded.

The Huskies will move on to playoff

games sitting in third place after winning 36 of 54 games in the Ontario Junior Hockey League south/east division and will face the Toronto Patriots, who are currently in sixth in the south/east division, in the first round of playoff games.

Visit www.huskieshockey.ca/2023-ojhl-huskies-playoffs/ for the schedule for the first round of playoffs.



A Huskies shot on the North York Rangers' net was blocked during the final game of the regular season.



The Huskies' last goal of the game was scored by #91 Alex Cunningham.

Sudoku brought to you by

LISA MERCER
BROKER

Don't keep me a secret.

Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale

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cell: 705.457.0364

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SUDOKU

7				4				
		4	6		8	3		
8					2			6
	8							5
		2			3		4	9
	6						3	4
1		7						
	3		4	7		1		

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 14



Haliburton Huskies goalies #29 Tyler Hodges, left, and #30 Aidan Spooner pose for a photo as they leave the ice after their win on Saturday, Mar. 4. /TIM YANO Special to the Times



Full speed ahead

Left, despite a late start to the season, ice racers have been out at the track nearly every weekend since the end of January. The races will continue as long as conditions can sustain. Above, ice racing participants line up to start their engines on March 4 at the Minden Fairgrounds. /TIM YANO special to the *Times*

New beginnings at the Cultural Centre

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

There's a new face at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

Robert Wong is the programming coordinator at the centre, and hopes to bring fresh ideas, new perspectives, and further community involvement to the space, which includes the heritage village and museum, the Agnes Jamieson Art Gallery, and Nature's Place. "I just love museums," he smiled when he sat down with the *Times*, "I am always looking for ways to make them more welcoming to people."

Wong hails from Hong Kong originally, and moved to Canada to attend the University of Windsor to do his undergrad in history. "I had never learned any Canadian history before coming here," he said, "so I spent the first few years just really focusing on that, and learning about everything I could."

Upon graduation from his undergrad, Wong attended Fleming College in Peterborough, where he focused on museum studies before completing the program and moving to Halifax, where he dove into curatorial work at the Maritime Museum in Halifax. "That job was really behind the scenes," he said. "I was doing a lot of cataloging and working with the collection. It was a great experience, but I knew I wanted to do something where I could work with more people face to face."

Wong then relocated to Quebec, where he worked as a teaching assistant to individuals learning English. It was here that he fell in love with the idea of working with people, and teaching them along the way.

Wong's homebase has been Toronto for the past few years, working museum jobs and establishing programs for community centres across Ontario. He noted that the industry can be challenging, as there are often not permanent jobs in the museum sector; rather there are a series of contract positions continually on the go. He shared that while this can be frustrating, it has also given him a wealth of experiences that he intends to apply at the Cultural Centre.

The new coordinator hopes to put a different spin on much of the traditional programming the facility has offered, and would like to make it a destination for the community as a whole.

He also hopes to incorporate components of Indigenous heritage into consistent programming. "I have noticed a lack of narrative in this museum with Indigenous representations," he told the *Times*, "I am looking to collaborate with local communities to make sure this is done properly. It's a conversation that we are starting."

Wong shared that his biggest measurement of success would be further involvement in the community, and he has already jumped in with two feet as he intends to offer March Break programming for the whole family, which will be based out of Nature's Place. He is hoping to offer sessions on climate change and local natural habitats.

While Wong is eager to hit the ground running with new initiatives, he is also doing his Master's Degree in museum education currently from the University of British Columbia online. He hopes that by completing this program, he will be able to apply the learnings from it to future initiatives at the Cultural Centre. He shared that the approach to these studies

are still fairly new, but he sees them as beneficial, as they combine arts, sciences, history, and languages all together.

He hopes to make the facility a destination for all age groups and demographics to enjoy, and Wong is actively looking for ways to collaborate with others in the community who are offering programming. "This is a huge arts community and there's so much happening here," he said. "I look forward to finding ways we can work together."

Robert Wong has stepped into the role of programming coordinator at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, and will be jumping in right away with March Break programs for the whole family. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff



CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH

Part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative

32nd ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF RESEARCH SATURDAY, MARCH 25th 1-3 pm

Keynote Speaker:

Tanner Liang - Water Quality Specialist, Kawartha Conservation

Featured Research Presentations:

Mapping of Invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil on Drag and Spruce Lakes
Assessment of Benthic Macroinvertebrate Communities in Glamor Lake
Pollinators Along the Minden Riverwalk



Poster presentations of 20 research projects by
Trent and Fleming Students

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Notice of a Complete Application and Public Meeting For a Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Township of Minden Hills will hold a Public Meeting on:

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2023
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: This will be held as a virtual meeting

To Watch: Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting can do so by joining the Meeting Live Stream Link: <https://youtube.com/live/9RBY82KoCmc?feature=share>

To Participate: Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the Public Meetings must: pre-register by emailing admin@mindenhills.ca by Wednesday March 29th before 4:00 PM or by attending and registering the morning of the meeting before 8:30 AM

Participants registering after 8:30 AM will not be permitted into the public meeting. Once registered, participants will automatically be placed into a holding room and brought into the meeting as permitted by the Chair.

To attend the Zoom virtual meeting via Web, type <https://zoom.us/join> or <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82962918447?pwd=eExGTERrc3VCLytmcnhwTGhUN0Y4UT09> into your browser or attend by dialing the number below:

Telephone: 1-647-374-4685 or 1-647-558-0588

Webinar ID: 829 6291 8447

Passcode: 079281

Written Submissions either in support of or opposition to the application must be received prior to the Public Meeting and can be submitted to admin@mindenhills.ca

The purpose of the Public Meeting will be to consider zoning by-law amendment application PLZBA2022101 pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act. The application for Public Meeting is listed below:

PLZBA2022101 – Part Lot 11, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Snowdon being 1251 Geeza Road (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: The subject property is currently zoned 'Rural (RU)' and is located within the Rural designation of the Township's Official Plan. The proposed zoning by-law amendment would serve to rezone the lands from 'Rural (RU)' to 'Recreational Commercial Exception 21 (C3-21) Zone' and 'Hazard Land (HZ) Zone' in order to permit a tourist establishment inclusive of a maximum of three (3) treehouse rental accommodations, a welcome centre and an accessory residential unit.

Additional Information regarding this application is available for public inspection at the Township of Minden Hills Building and Planning Department by appointment only.

Any Person may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

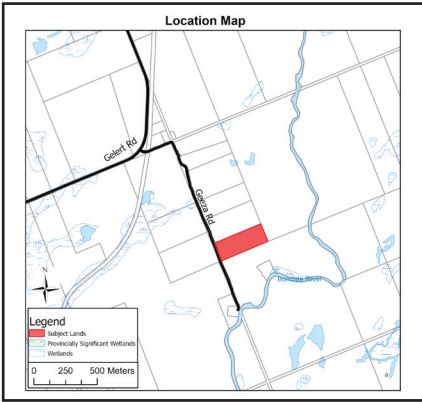
If a Person Or Public Body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Ontario Land Tribunal. If a Person Or Public Body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If You Wish to Be Notified of the decision of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed zoning by-law amendment, you must submit a written request to the Township of Minden Hills. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at admin@mindenhills.ca.

Accessibility: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

Privacy Disclosure: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

Trisha McKibbin, Clerk
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359
Minden, ON. K0M 2K0



SIRCH offering living wage

The Ontario Living Wage Network (OLWN) is announcing the first certified living wage employer in Haliburton: SIRCH Community Services. SIRCH conducts dozens of programs, plus two retail stores and a non-profit bistro. Their program streams include training, resources, and social enterprises that create resilience, confidence, and connection. As a certified employer, all full-time, part-time, contract, and seasonal workers earn at least the currently calculated living wage of \$19.05 per hour.

“While staff in retail and food services are traditionally paid low wages, we felt that philosophically we could not tackle poverty and food insecurity unless we are truly walking the walk by ensuring our employees are not making less than the living wage for this area,” says Gena Robertson, Executive Director of SIRCH.

A living wage is calculated by the OLWN to show how much a worker must earn per hour in order to make ends meet and enjoy modest participation in civic and cultural community. The calculations gather real local expenses such as shelter costs, childcare,

transportation, and food. They also factor in any any applicable government taxes, transfers, and benefits.

“Families who work for low wages often face impossible choices: buy food or heat the house, feed the children or pay the rent. Paying a living wage allows individuals and families to cover household essentials as well as occasional emergencies or unexpected expenses. From a business perspective, paying a living wage can reduce employee turnover, absenteeism, and retraining costs. It can also improve performance and productivity, and lower staff turnover rates.

It may be difficult to pay more for labour, but paying a living wage will help your employees remain in the county, remain in your employ, and feed their families. It’s one of the best local economic development strategies we can employ” continues Robertson.

For more information, including calculation documentation, coverage map, and certified employer directory: ontariolivingwage.ca

Submitted by Ontario Living Wage Network

The first IN-PERSON Celebration of Research in 3 years

The Celebration of Research is back live and in person! After three years on zoom, U-Links Centre for Community Based Research welcomes the community to an in-person showcase of student researchers from Trent University and Fleming College presenting their research projects from the 2022-2023 academic year. This is an opportunity for project hosts and the community at large to hear presentations, ask questions about the outcomes of the research and to network with other community members.

U-Links, a part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative, works with community partners, student researchers and professors to conduct research and community service-learning in Haliburton County. This community-based education program helps facilitate research projects focused on the environmental, social, economic and cultural sectors in Haliburton County.

U-Links is an independent, community driven research centre in that all research is conceived of and driven by the needs of the community as opposed to the academic interests of post-secondary institution partners—the only one of its kind in North America.

U-Links is hosting the 32nd annual Celebration of Research on March 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Haliburton School of Art and Design. It is featuring the presentation of 20 projects by student researchers who will discuss their findings on a community identified question or issue. “We are excited about holding this unique event in-person again after 3 years! But it’s really all about the community, the student researchers and our project partners”, says U-Links Director, Dr. Andrew Gordon. John Watson, Environmental

Manager for the municipality of Dysart et al puts it nicely, “I have always enjoyed this event. The Municipality of Dysart et al has long benefited from the great work of students conducting research projects coordinated by U-Links. The annual Celebration of Research is not only a demonstration of the breadth and impact of these research projects, but also an opportunity to learn about, and from, our community.”

This year’s keynote speaker is Tanner Liang, Water Quality Specialist for Kawartha Conservation.

Showcased Student Research Projects:

1. Kaleigh Mooney: Mapping of Invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil on Drag and Spruce Lakes
2. Zachary Weber and Imogen Bellinger: Assessment of Benthic Macroinvertebrate Communities in Glamor Lake
3. Caleb Brown: Pollinators Along the Minden Riverwalk - An Investigation for Haliburton County Master Gardeners

Please register for the event by going to www.ulinks.ca and clicking on the registration link.

Admission is free. Parking is free. Snacks and beverages provided.

U-Links is currently accepting project proposals from any organization, small business or individual for projects that involve tangible benefits to social, cultural, environmental and/or economic life in Haliburton County. Research will be conducted in the 2023-2024 academic terms. Contact admin@ulinks.ca for more information.

Submitted by U-Links

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THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY

Sleeping in cars for a cause

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Places for People will once again be hosting their annual Sleeping in Cars event to raise awareness about the lack of affordable housing in Haliburton County. On March 24, all are invited to participate in the 12-hour fundraiser, which will focus on conversations around what types of housing are needed in the community. “You can sleep in your car, your tent, your couch, whatever you want,” shared Nataly Mylan, an organizer for the event.

Sleeping in Cars has happened sporadically over the years, and like many things, was interrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic that hit in 2020. Mylan noted that the nature of affordable housing has changed since the events were held in the early years. “We really want to start shifting the conversation about housing and what that means,” she told the *Times*. “There are a lot of misconceptions about who needs housing at this time.”

Places for People is a grassroots, nonprofit organization, which focuses on establishing housing for those in need across the county. The organization relies solely on fundraising and donations to make this happen. Currently, the group manages and maintains seven units across the area, and hopes to expand to more as the need continues to grow.

“We are really looking to push forward with our builds,” said Mylan, “so it’s really important for us to have a good donor base.”

According to Mylan, the nature of those renting has shifted in recent years. It’s now folks who have been working their whole lives, and are now in a place where there

is nowhere to purchase or rent in the region. She shared that she is also seeing a growing need from elderly renters, who are now “couch surfing” as they have nowhere else to go. “It’s getting to a crisis point,” said Mylan. “It really has changed.”

Places for People recently acquired a unit in Carnarvon that had one rental option available, and the organization received over 48 applications for the single unit.

Mylan hopes that since housing was such a hot topic during the most recent local election, Places for People and Sleeping in Cars will receive support from each municipality. “I am really hoping to get some serious political support since it was such a big election item,” she said. Support can come in the form of financial contributions, or even a presence at the upcoming event.

This year, Sleeping in Cars will be held in Head Lake Park. Myland said there will be buskers and a roaring fire to keep participants toasty, as well as access to heated washroom facilities that can be used through the evening. She also noted that not everyone necessarily has to stay over, but all are welcome to participate, donate, and share their own housing experiences with the group.

“There are people here that just can’t find housing no matter what. People in the service industry, construction, doctors, you name it, there are challenges now.”

Mylan said that success would come in a twofold form, with fundraising on the forefront and networking close behind. She believes that starting these conversations and listening to the needs of the community would foster next steps for affordable housing in the area.

The event will take place on March 24 at 7 p.m., and will run until March 25 at 7 a.m. A pledge form can be found at www.placesforpeople.ca



Paytra and Andre Mylan-Goulet sport the Sleeping in Cars toques that were given out to participants in previous years. The popular community fundraiser for affordable housing is set to return on March 24 in Head Lake Park. /photo submitted



NOTICE ADOPTION OF 2023 BUDGET

NOTICE is provided that the Council of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-law to adopt the 2023 Municipal Budget at its Regular Meeting scheduled for Thursday March 16, 2023.

Please Note: Public participation in meetings of Council, remains virtual at this time. Members of the Public are invited to observe the Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link which can be found on the published Council Meeting Agenda on the Township’s website at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Dated this 8th day of March, 2023.

Dawn Newhook, Municipal Clerk
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
T: (705) 489-2379 Ext. 333
E: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca



Dancing for Ukraine

A dance group based in Ukraine says “Thank you, Haliburton” in a pre-recorded message at the Kolomeijka for Ukraine at the Haliburton Legion on Feb. 25. Proceeds went towards assisting those in need after the invasion of the Ukraine last year. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Times*

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5	6	8	9	2	1	7	3	4
1	4	7	8	3	5	9	6	2
2	3	9	4	6	7	5	1	8

mindentimes.ca



Ukrainian dancers Jenn Droniuk and Paul Droniuk perform a traditional dance.



Ukrainian dancers Jenn Droniuk and Paul Droniuk pose for a photo following their performance.

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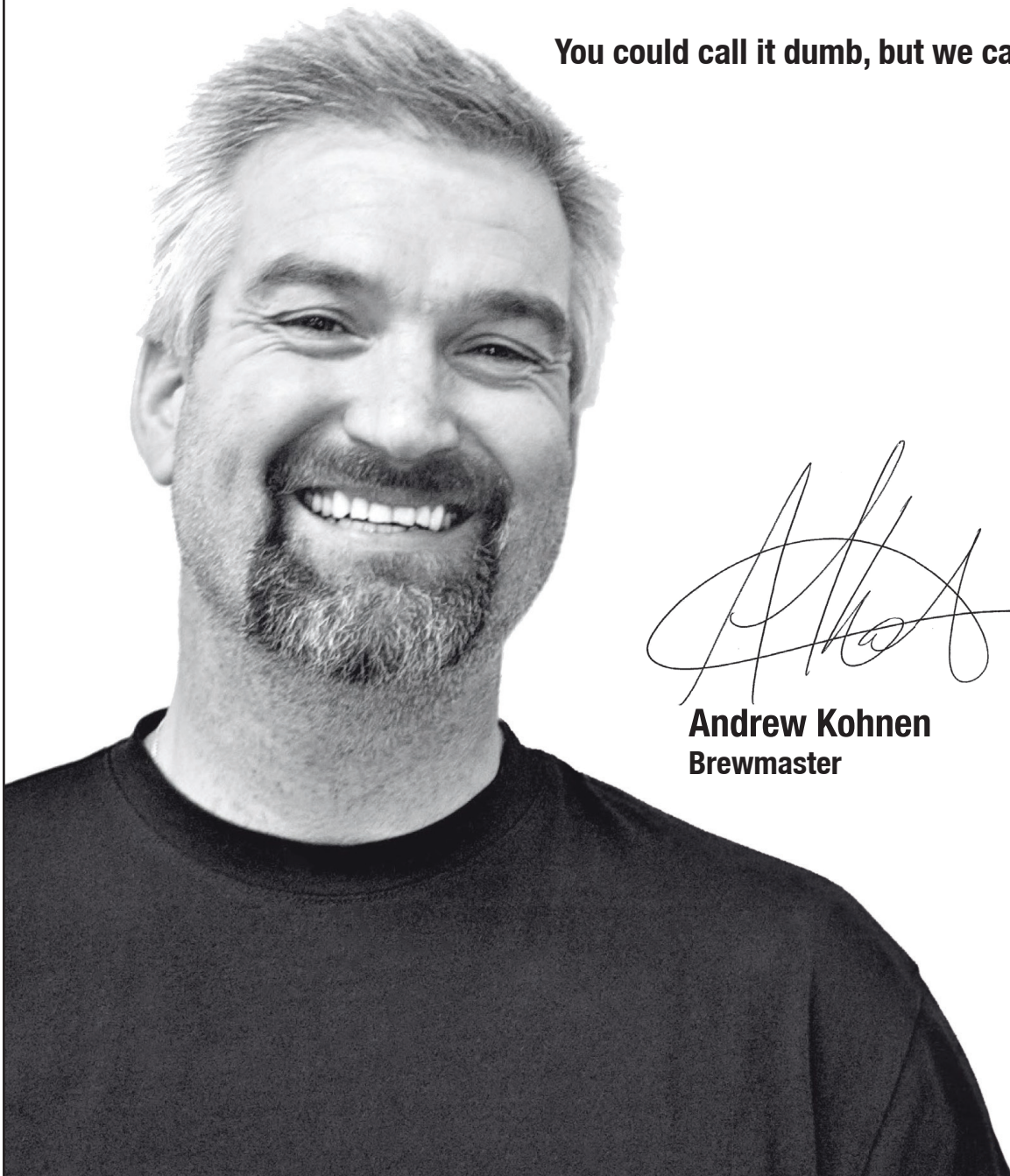


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Camp Timberlane

is a co-ed residential summer camp for campers aged 6 – 16 and is looking to hire candidates to join our onsite Housekeeping / Laundry team and our Grounds Keeping and Maintenance. For more information about the camp, visit us at www.Camptimberlane.ca

Housekeeping/Laundry - Full Time, Temporary, Contract

Four positions available

Our Housekeeping and Laundry areas are managed with teams split between Housekeeping and Laundry.

Responsibilities include: cleaning of all buildings, accommodations, wash-rooms, shower facilities and common areas throughout the camp, including the turnover of living space throughout camp and overall upkeep of camp facilities. Cleaning and light maintenance duties include, but not limited to sweeping, mopping, cleaning, painting and replenishing supplies needed for showers and washrooms.

Grounds Keeping/Maintenance - Full Time, Temporary, Contract

Two positions available

Our Maintenance and Construction Team are managed with teams split between the Maintenance and Construction Team and Grounds Keeping.

Responsibilities include: keeping the grounds clean and clear of garbage and waste, grass cutting and leaf blowing, landscape maintenance, empty garbage receptacle, operation of front loader, painting, delivery wood for firepits. Sundry duties as assigned. Manual labour or construction experience will be an asset.

Expected Start date: Spring 2023

Candidates will be cross-trained and or assigned to areas based on existing skills and previous work experience. Candidates must enjoy working outside. A typical work week is 40 hours with potential for overtime. Willing to take required government safety certifications such as WHMIS. Able to support a positive team environment.

Salary: Housekeeping / Laundry or Grounds Keeping: \$17.50 - \$19.50 per hour based on experience. Maintenance with construction/building experience: \$25.00 and up.

Submit application and resume by email to Jay@camptimberlane.ca

Minden Times

Classifieds

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A truly Canadian summer tradition, Onondaga Camp offers an extraordinary environment for kids to play, explore, achieve and grow. Situated on the shores of Middle Bob Lake near Minden, Ontario, Onondaga inspires the best in outdoor fun, learning and adventure for girls and boys from six to 16 years old. Onondaga Camp values the diversity of people. We welcome and encourage applications from people with disabilities. Arrangements will be provided, on request, to support candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All responses will be handled with strict confidence.



BOARD MEMBERS WANTED

SIRCH Community Services is a charitable organization in Haliburton County with a focus on poverty reduction, food security and community connection. Known for innovation and the ability to pivot, SIRCH has a variety of programs and social enterprises that contribute to community health.

We are looking for a new board member to join our team.
Here's what the current board members have to say:

"As someone who genuinely believes in empowering others to take care of themselves, I joined the SIRCH board in order to do just that. Serving this organisation, which works relentlessly to better the social and economic reality of our community, is a privilege." (Petra Hamann)

"I am blessed to be a part of an organization that cares so deeply about the needs of our community and 'SIRCHes' for ways to alleviate hunger and unemployment, alternatives for waste management, and so much more." (Barb Fawcett)

"After retiring, I volunteered with SIRCH in the School's Cool, CAPC/CPNP and Community Kitchen programs. When I saw the opportunity to become a SIRCH Board member, I knew I was ready to become more involved in all that SIRCH does. I now have a greater understanding of how SIRCH continually pivots to meet the needs of our community and I am grateful that I have a voice in helping so many." (Lynn McGillivray)

"People helping people is the hallmark of a compassionate and caring community. As a member of the Board of Directors, I feel privileged to be a part of an organization which lives out this mandate through creating resilience, reducing poverty, encouraging connection." (Marc Beisheim)

**Join our Board team. For more information contact
Barbara Fawcett fawcett.barbara@gmail.com or Gena Robertson at info@sirch.on.ca
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In Loving Memory of

Carolyn Mabel Welsh

Passed away peacefully with family by her side at Hyland Crest Long Term Care Home on March 1st, 2023.

She was born in Toronto on July 3rd, 1935. Carol was the much loved mother of Bill (Kathy), Bruce (Cheri), Brad (Karen), Cindy (Ron(d.)) and Barry (Derrick). She was blessed with many grandchildren, Gavin (Dani), Brittany (Taylor), Brady (Rachel), Robby (Brittney), Brett (Rachel), Christopher, Ali, Brigitta (Sean), Ben (Vic), Charlene, Spencer (Lindsay), Emily, Christa (Eric) and Emma (Mark) and great grandchildren, Rome, Liam, Naia, Addison, Wylie and Aila, who all loved Grandma. She was also loved by her brother, George (Mike and Lynn), and sister Marilyn (d.) and their families, Jim, father of her children, Frank (d.) and Barb (d.) and their families.

Carol first started coming to Lake Boshkung in 1940, when her parents, Howard and Mary Welsh established one of the early cottages on the Lake. She attended Camp Calumet for many years, where she met Jim. She loved her cottage on the Town Lot Road, where she spent decades with her family and many Boshkung friends. Her laugh and kindness will be missed as will the frequent sightings of her swimming and paddling on the lake. Her family and her garden by the lake were her passions; her spirit will remain forever on Boshkung. Our sincere gratitude to the staff at Hyland Crest for their kindness and professional care of our mom.

A gathering to remember Carol will be held at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands

Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated, in lieu of flowers by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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The Times

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF HALIBURTON COUNTY

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VOLUME III, No. 21

Wednesday, March 18, 1981



It is a sure sign of spring David Schell holds in his hand. It is a bottle of amber, Haliburton County maple syrup. This particular syrup is a product of the sugar bush adjacent to Archie Stouffer Elementary School. The students of Mrs. Audrey Chambers and Mr. Dale McConnell's grade six classes are in charge of the collection of the sap and the preparation of the syrup. More pictures on page 3.

Water rates raised-- \$11.30 more per home

Minden Village residents will be facing an increase in water rates this year.

The township council had been toying with the prospect since late last year when an auditor's report identified some of the shortcomings of the water system's financial health. At the March 11 meeting the council took steps to eliminate the yearly water deficit and begin a program to reduce the accumulated deficit of \$33,000.

Residential and commercial users will now pay a flat monthly rate of \$7.05. This figure will apply no matter what quantity of water had been consumed. The new rate will bring the yearly minimum water charge to \$84.60. The compares with \$73.32 paid last year.

In addition to the increased minimum rate, discounts for those who pay their water bills by a certain date will be discontinued.

Many commercial water users will also notice a sharp increase in their water bills this year. The increase will be the result of readjustments in the number of "units" assigned to each business.

Water bills for commercial establishments are based on an estimated water use. All businesses will now pay a minimum three units for water services. Last year the minimum was two units. Heavy water users are assigned larger number of units depending on how much water they consume.

According to Councillor Ed pergolas, who reviewed the existing list of units assigned to various businesses, many are not paying their share and some were "hopelessly under-charged." During his review of the list, the councillor also found a number of businesses which were not being charged for water even though they were connected to the system.

The council studied the list

prepared by the councillor and confirmed or reset most of the rates. In a number of cases where water charges would rise above 25 units, the council has agreed to install meters to measure water consumption if the customer requested it. Among those places slated for charges of over 25 units are Hyland Crest, Archie Stouffer Elementary School, the hotels, the arena and community centre and a number of businesses.

According to Pergolas, raising the minimum rate, eliminating discounts for prepayment, increasing the

minimum units for commercial users and readjusting the units charged to commercial users should eliminate any deficit expected in this year's operation of the water system. The initial computation showed increased revenue of \$8800 compared with an expected deficit of \$8000.

The council has also agreed to include a discount for seniors or those on fixed income.

The by-law authorizing the changes in the water charges is to be drafted for presentation at the next meeting of the council, March 25.

OMB approves BIA by-law

The formation of a Business Improvement Area (BIA) for the core area of Minden took another significant step forward last week as township council received approval of the by-law creating the BIA from the Ontario Municipal Board. The council also selected a number of individuals to serve

on the board of management for the improvement body.

The OMB approval came after the initial by-law enacted by the council was challenged by a number of businessmen. Following a hearing earlier this year, the OMB ordered that a new by-law be drafted and that representatives from both the opposing and

favouring factions be included on the board of management. A member of council is also included on that board.

The council has asked former councillor Stuart Brandon, Stedman's Store operator Jerry Pillsworth and Gordon Monk to represent those in favour of the BIA on the board of management. As of press time only one individual who was opposed to the BIA, Joe Shapiera, has agreed to serve on the board. A number of other merchants have been contacted, but have declined the offer.

The member of council who will sit on the management board has also yet to be chosen.

Council votes own increase

Remuneration and expense allowances for members of Anson, Hindon and Minden Township council were raised at the March 11 meeting.

The reeve will receive a \$4250 honorarium, the same amount that was set aside for that office last year. The reeve's expense allowance was raised however, from \$750 to \$1000. This allowance, which

was last raised in 1977, is provided over and above expenses incurred by the head of the municipality when attending conventions or other functions on behalf of the township.

The honorarium for deputy-reeve was increased from \$2875 to \$3500, while

the expense allowance was also increased from \$575 to \$750.

Members of the council will now receive a yearly honorarium of \$3000 compared to \$2625 paid last year. The expense allowance for councillors will also be increased from \$525 to \$550.

In addition, those councillors not living in the village will be paid 22¢ per mile to travel to and from council meetings.

In addition to approving the higher rates for the council members, the councillors also endorsed a by-law increasing the rates of pay for council employees.

Zoning by-law options considered

A major revision of the existing zoning by-law or a complete new statute is needed in the municipality of Anson, Hindon and Minden. That is the opinion of Pat Vanini of the Ontario Ministry of Housing. Most of the members of the township council appear to share that view.

Vanini appeared before the members of the council at the March 11 meeting to discuss the future of the township's zoning by-law. She noted that the present by-law was written in 1967 and is outdated. She pointed out that numerous provincial regulations and statutes have been enacted since the by-law was passed and that these have seriously

impaired the effectiveness of the township by-law. Vanini suggested to the council that two options were open to bring the existing by-law up to date.

"You could attempt to live with the existing by-law by undertaking a major revision and update," she told the council. This would entail a careful reassessment of all sections of the by-law adding amendments where required. She pointed out that this route could be marginally less expensive than drafting a completely new statute but also noted that could result in confusion as two documents, the original by-law and the amendments, would have to be consulted by anyone

seeking information about the municipality's zoning restrictions.

As to drafting an entirely new by-law, Vanini pointed out the costs of such an undertaking would probably be more than the update, but not that much greater even though the final product would be of greater value. She noted that re-writing the by-law would improve the township's data base and "clean up loose ends." She also said it would bring the by-law in line with provincial legislation.

The township's zoning and land use by-law, designates the type of activity which can take place in certain parts of the municipality. It also lists

the regulations for activity within each zone including, for example, such items as lot size, minimum frontage on roads and lakes, setbacks and other provisions.

Vanini said re-writing the by-law could cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 with a possibility of the provincial government absorbing possibly 60% of the cost. She suggested the council ask several consulting firms to prepare cost analysis for the two routes before they decide which to embark on.

She also pointed out that any new zoning by-law would have to take into consideration the direction laid out by

(more on page 2)

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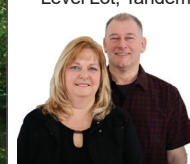


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